(a) whether Government have any plan for increasing the number of flights from Imphal to Delhi and Delhi to Imphal;

(b) if so, whether the Sahara Flight from Imphal to Delhi had been stopped; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government have made any arrangement for increasing private airlines in case there are limited aircrafts of Indian Airlines?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Operators are free to operate on any route in their commercial judgement subject to compliance with the Route Dispersal Guidelines which stipulate certain minimum operations on specified category of routes. There is no bar to entry of new private airlines.

Hindi training programme

†3233. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of typists and stenographers in the Ministry / Department and Subordinate Offices who are yet to be trained in typing and stenography in Hindi; and

(b) the reasons for not giving them such training so far and by when it is planned to give such training?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Number of those Stenographers and Typists of Ministry of Civil Aviation and its subordinate offices, who are yet to be trained in Hindi stenography and Hindi typing, is as under:—

	Name of the office	Stenographer	Typist
1.	Ministry	07	15
2.	D.G.C.A	12	16
3.	B.C.A.S.	08	05
4.	Commissioner of Railway Safety	01	05
5.	Airports Authority of India	265	523
6.	Air India Ltd.	145	72
7.	Indian Airlines Ltd.	79	24
8.	Pawan Hans Helicopters Ltd.	13	NIL
9.	Hotel Corporation of India	19	5
10.	I.G.R.U.A.	05	01

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) Imparting training is a continuous which includes the newly recruited stenographers / typists. Efforts are being made to impart training in Hindi stenography / Hindi typing to all those stenographers / typists who have not been trained so far as early as possible.

Delay in IA services

3234. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Airlines flights were running late invariably in important destinations like Delhi, Calcutta and Mumbai during the last week of March, 2000;

(b) if so, the reasons for go slow attitude of IA staff;

(c) the impact on the business of IA; and

(d) the action proposed to refurbish the image of IA?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) During the last week of March, 2000 the incidence of flight delays was much higher than the average, due to the "Quality Assurance Norms" followed by the engineers falling back on technicalities, as a tactic adopted by the All India Aircraft Engineers Association in the context of its demands related to higher wages and other service conditions.

(c) There was no noticeable decrease in the utilization of seats in Indian Airlines.

(d) Negotiations are currently in progress between the Management and the representatives of the Engineer's Association. Management has also drawn up a contingency schedule to cater to eventualities.

Renewal of Licence of MESCO Aviation

3235. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the request of MESCO Aviation for the renewal of its licence has been turned down;